



Arizona State Retirement System

3300 North Central Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85012

WWW.ASRS.STATE.AZ.US

Fact Sheet

Information:

Phoenix (602) 240-2000

Tucson (520) 239-3100

Toll-free (800) 621-3778

MEMBERSHIP

The Arizona State Retirement System, created in 1953, is a state agency providing retirement benefits, long-term disability insurance and other benefits to employees of the state, counties, municipalities, universities and community colleges, school districts and other political entities.

Once an employer agency becomes a member of the ASRS, employees in covered positions must also become members. Membership is a mandatory condition of employment for all public employees in a position that meets the eligibility and membership criteria defined in Arizona Revised Statute (A.R.S. § 38-711).

Membership Categories

- Active Member, working at a member employer and contributing to the ASRS.
- Inactive Member, once a contributing member but now in employment outside ASRS membership. Such members have an account balance but are no longer contributing to the Plan and are not withdrawing pension benefits.
- Retirees, receiving a lifetime benefit from the ASRS.

Active Membership

A member is any employee hired to work a minimum of 20 hours per week for 20 or more weeks in a fiscal year, and is included in the Social Security Section 218 agreement. This is referred to as the 20/20 rule of membership.

If a member is initially hired for a period of time that does not meet the 20/20 rule, but whose employment is extended, coverage with ASRS begins on the 20th week of employment. Coverage is not retroactive.

If a member is working full time for one employer and part time for a second ASRS employer, the second employer may need to make contributions to the ASRS. If the second employer's position is covered by the Social Security Section 218 agreement, retirement contributions are mandatory.

Retired members of the ASRS may stop their pension benefits and return full time to an ASRS employer. The retiree becomes an Active Member and adds service time to their pension. The member must notify the ASRS in writing that they have returned to active membership.

Non-Membership

An employee who is hired to work less than 20 hours per week, or less than 20 weeks in a fiscal year, is not a member of the ASRS.

An employee who is in a limited position for not more than 18 months is not a member of the ASRS. To be eligible for an exclusion, approval must be granted by the ASRS Director.